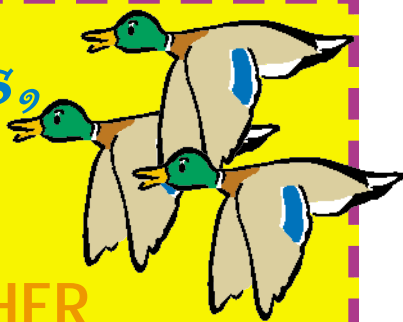


# Wetlands, Ducks & Art



## FLY TOGETHER

The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program is off and flying in Missouri this winter! The program combines waterfowl and art to help students learn about wetland habitats.

Students in kindergarten through grade 12 are eligible to create art of Missouri waterfowl to enter in this national wetlands education program.

The Missouri contest is sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Missouri Department of Conservation and Greater Lake Area Arts Council. For complete rules and wetlands curriculum, write for the official Junior Duck Stamp Contest teacher packet:

**JUNIOR DUCK STAMP ENTRY PACKET**  
Distribution Center  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
PO Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

# TEACHER RESOURCES

## CHECK OUT OUR LIBRARY

The Missouri Department of Conservation maintains a free loan library of film and video productions. Any Missouri school, service club or other organization can use this service. If you would like a copy of the Media Loan List, write to: Missouri Department of Conservation, Media Loan Service, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102.

## Look for these titles:

From the TV Story Collection, *Endangered/Rare Species II Video*—includes segments on Otter Release and Otter and Falcon Restoration.

## POSTERS

Order by using your teacher request form.

*Winter Birds:* A small poster of birds that visit Missouri backyards and feeders.

*Outdoors in Missouri—Winter:* A rural winter setting with tracks and birds at a birdfeeder.

*Winter Wildlife Sampler:* Features deer, cardinal, cottontail rabbit, quail and nuthatch.

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Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

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**BULK RATE**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**MO Dept Of Conservation**

# Conservation TEACHER

## Winter Winds! ~ ~

*Where is all the wildlife? Chilly winter days are great for lessons on wildlife and how animals survive. Whether thick fur, fluffy feathers or great hunting skills, wildlife can endure!*

*So, put on your warm winter coat and gloves and talk about how wild animals make it through our coldest days. Brrrrrrr!*



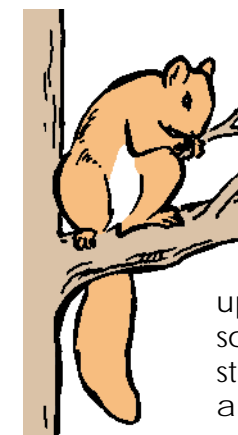
## Otter SLIDE

True to their playful reputation, river otters like to slip, slide and romp in the snow and mud. Their curiosity makes them nature's comedians. River otters are aquatic mammals that grow to 35 pounds and 4 1/2 feet long. They live along river banks in burrows deserted by muskrats and beavers. Otters eat fish and crayfish. They have special adaptations to help them swim underwater, including ears and eyes that close to seal out the water and webbed feet.

Unregulated trapping led to the near-disappearance of otters, leaving only 70 in Missouri by 1934. River otters were reintroduced in the early 1980s. Through proper management, otter numbers now are in the thousands.



December  
1999



## COZY COATS

Discuss with children how people prepare to go outside in the winter. People bundle up with sweaters, coats, hats, scarves, boots and gloves. Have students brainstorm ways that animals prepare for winter.

## OTTER RAINCOAT

### Hands-on Activity or Demonstration

**Purpose:** To demonstrate how an otter's oily fur coat protects it from the icy water.

**Materials:** waxed paper, paper towels, water

Discuss how paper towels and waxed paper are both paper. Drop water on top of each. Discuss what happens to each drop. Explain how waxed paper is like fur with waterproof oil (such as otter fur) and the paper towel is like fur without oil or more like human hair.

## READY FOR SNOW!

Give each child 6 cotton balls to tear apart and glue on the snowflakes in the picture.

Discuss ways animals stay warm in winter. Birds fluff up their feathers for insulation from the cold and wind. Mammals grow heavy fur coats and have layers of fat under their skin. Water mammals have an oil that makes their fur waterproof.

## APPLICATION

### Bonus activities for school or home

Look for animals outside on your way home. What kinds of winter coats are they wearing?

Look for tracks in the snow.

## BIRD SILHOUETTES

When days become shorter in winter, songbirds trade their bright feathers for dull ones. If you can recognize the shape, size and any unique features, the birds are more easily identified.

**Blue Jay**– large and crested. Many jays are named for their color or where they are found.

**Woodpecker**– beak. Called chisel-billed tree-climbers, their spiny tails act as props while they hitch their way up trees.

**Goldfinch**– small. In flight, each dip is generally accompanied by a simple ti-dee-di-di.

**Nuthatch**– upside-down, small and chubby. No other tree-climbers attempt to go down trees headfirst like these little guys.

## LOOKING AHEAD

Spring issues will feature the following topics:

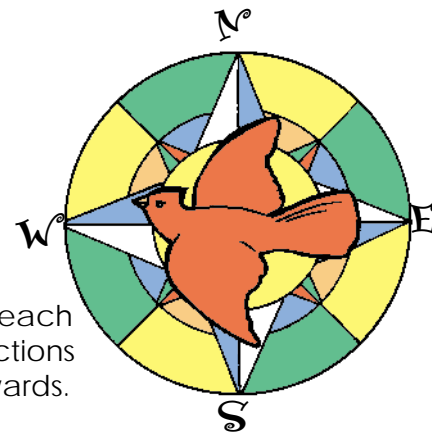
WOOLYWORM (K) will focus on fish and streams.

TADPOLE (1) will cover toads, frogs, tracks and trails.

CRAWDAD (2) will be on groundhogs and soil.

## CARDINAL DIRECTIONS

Discuss directions (N, S, E and W). Explain which wall of your classroom faces each direction. Discuss directions in the students' backyards.



Have students brainstorm what birds need to live. What would you need in your backyard to attract a bird (food source, water, place to nest)? How are a bird's needs similar to your needs?



Discuss the many uses of feathers. Small feathers (down) are used for insulation. Some feathers are dull in color to help camouflage or hide the bird. Feathers are slick and oiled to keep birds dry. Feathers for flying are stiff, large and wide.

## APPLICATION

*Bonus activities for school or home*

Watch for birds at the pine cone bird feeders.

Look at their feathers. What kinds do you see?



*The Mitten*, by Jan Brett  
*When This Box Is Full*, by Patricia Lillie  
*Otters Under Water*, by Jim Arnosky  
*The Big Snow*, by Berta and Elmer Hader  
*Sadie and the Snowman*, by Allen Morgan  
*The Nest*, by Chris Baines



## EAGLE SAFARI

Have students put a red X on capital letters at the beginning of sentences and a blue X on the periods at the end of sentences.

## RIVER RACING

Have students break into groups of four. They can cut out the eagles to use as markers. Students take turns flipping a coin, heads they move 1 space along the river, tails 2 spaces.

## EAGLE NEST

**Materials:** chocolate chips  
 chow mein noodles  
 peanut butter  
 yogurt-covered peanuts

Melt chocolate chips and peanut butter. Add noodles and coat. Give each child a piece of waxed paper. Place a large spoonful of the mixture on each piece of waxed paper. Form into a nest. Place yogurt-covered peanuts in nest as eggs.



## EAGLE FACTS

- Eagles fly 20-40 miles per hour.
- Eagle vision is 5-6 times sharper than a human's.
- The biggest eagle nest ever found was 20 feet deep, 10 feet wide and weighed 2 tons.
- In 1782, the bald eagle became our national symbol.
- Bald eagles are not bald. They have white feathers on their heads. Bald means "white."
- Young bald eagles are brown, but get white heads and tails when they are 5 years old. Bald eagles can live up to 30 years.

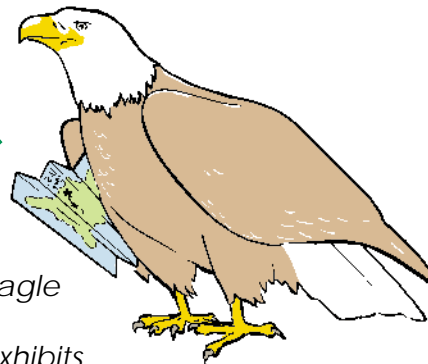
## APPLICATION

*Bonus activities for school or home*

Students can play the game at home with family and friends. How many eagle facts did the student's family know?

Provide students with dates for Eagle Days events. Encourage them to ask their parents about attending.

## EAGLE DAYS



Visit one of these events to see a live eagle program, take part in kids' activities, view exhibits and see wintering bald eagles.

**December 4-5**

Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Mound City

**January 8**

School of the Osage Elementary, Lake Ozark

**January 15-16**

Springfield Conservation Nature Center, Springfield

**January 15**

Smithville Lake, Smithville

**January 22-23**

Chain of Rocks Bridge, St. Louis

**January 29-30**

Clarksville Apple Shed Theater, Clarksville

## ANSWER KEY

M	W	A	T	E	R	F	O	W	L	T	A	T
I	M	U	P	O	Y	F	D	O	O	F	R	
S	B	S	W	H	S	R	G	N	U	A	X	A
S	Q	Z	S	I	H	H	I	A	P	N	Z	N
O	R	Y	H	I	W	E	T	L	A	N	D	S
U	J	R	I	M	S	E	F	T	G	S	R	P
R	M	S	P	L	P	S	I	E	G	B	S	O
I	F	C	P	T	A	T	B	A	H	S	R	
A	X	E	S	P	L	Y	P	R	C	Y	T	
F	Z	I	N	V	P	M	R	Z	P	H	R	A
G	Y	K	G	W	I	Q	S	Y	C	L	T	
L	R	N	F	S	D	N	A	L	T	E	W	
E	X	P	L	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	E	O
P	C	S	R	E	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N